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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 001215 SIPDIS E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/29/2018 TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [EINV](#) [PINR](#) [AR](#)

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE SENATORS SEE OPPORTUNITY AND RISKS IN NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE REF:

(A) BUENOS AIRES 1115 (B) BUENOS AIRES 1038 (C) BUENOS AIRES 0800 Classified By: Ambassador E. Anthony Wayne for reason 1.4 (b) & (d).

1. (U) Summary: Argentine Senate president Pampuro again privately criticized the government's handling of the agricultural sector crisis, with agricultural export taxes. The first couple's declining poll numbers and rising public concerns over issues like inflation had changed the dynamic attempt to recover power, with dangerous consequences for Argentine democracy. End Summary. 2. (U) Visiting Senate Foreign Relations Committee Professional Staff Member Carl Meacham and State WHA/BSC (FPV), with FPV Senators Miguel Pichetto and Guillermo Jenefer, and with two opposition members of the Senate Friendship Committee, Maria Eugenia vote was that all former governors in the Senate (i.e. those with executive experience) voted against the government bill, including Vice President government. They both criticized Cobos, asserting that no U.S. president would have tolerated a dissenting vote from his vice president. Neve 17. (C) Jenefer expressed support for stronger ties between the U.S. and Argentina, saying that he was not in favor of a "Venezuelan-Argentine trade. The Senate Opposition: Cautiously Optimistic but Concerned

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